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HAMBURG DIE WELT 3 APR 68 G

(TEXT) THE ARREST OF ELECTRONICS EXPERT JOSEF EITZENBERGER OF THE FRANKFURT BATELLE INSTITUTE FOR SUSPECTED TREASON HAS ALARMED THE INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AGENCIES OF THE NATO PARTNERS. THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (CIA) HAS ASKED THE FEDERAL PROSECUTING OFFICE, WHICH IS WORKING ON THE CASE, NOT TO PUBLISH ANY DETAILS OF THE SUSPECTED ESPIONAGE SCANDAL. FURTHER ARRESTS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC ARE POSSIBLE.

DIE WELT HAS LEARNED THAT AN ANONYMOUS LETTER CONTAINING DETAILS OF EITZENBERGER'S ALLEGED TREASON WAS ONLY ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE ARREST OF THE AUSTRIAN SCIENTIST. THE OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION IN COLOGNE HAD ALLEGEDLY GIVEN HINTS TO THE FEDERAL PROSECUTING OFFICE PREVIOUSLY. ACCORDING TO THESE HINTS, EITZENBERGER MIGHT BE THE KEY FIGURE IN AN ESPIONAGE RING WHICH HAS BEEN IN OPERATION IN THE NATO COUNTRIES FOR SOME YEARS.

IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR WHAT SECRET INFORMATION GRADUATE ENGINEER EITZENBERGER MIGHT HAVE PASSED ON. HOWEVER, EVERYTHING INDICATES THAT IT CONSISTED MOSTLY OF DETAILS REGARDING THE NATO INTELLIGENCE SECTOR, RESEARCH ORDERS OF THE FEDERAL DEFENSE MINISTRY WERE ALLEGEDLY LESS INVOLVED, ALTHOUGH THIS CAN "BY NO MEANS BE STATED WITH ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY," A MINISTRY SPOKESMAN TOLD DIE WELT ON TUESDAY.

DIE WELT HAS LEARNED FROM WELL-INFORMED SOURCES THAT IN THE COURSE OF ITS INVESTIGATIONS THE CIA PLANS TO MAKE CAREFUL SECURITY CHECKS IN THE TWO OTHER BATELLE INSTITUTES LOCATED IN THE UNITED STATES AND GENEVA. OTHER EUROPEAN RESEARCH INSTITUTES DEALING WITH MILITARY RESEARCH WILL ALSO BE EXAMINED IN CONNECTION WITH THE EITZENBERGER CASE.

IT IS ALSO INTERESTING THAT THE CIA PLANS TO CHECK ON A NUMBER OF FORMER CIA OFFICIALS WHO WERE CHARGED WITH PROTECTING THE SECRETS OF RESEARCH INSTITUTES. A CHECK WILL ALSO BE MADE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THESE OFFICIALS MAY HAVE EMBEZZLED MONEY ALLOCATED FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES.

THE ATTORNEY OF THE ARRESTED EITZENBERGER, HOWEVER, WHO HAD A DETAILED DISCUSSION WITH THE FEDERAL PROSECUTING OFFICE LAST FRIDAY, WAS VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE MATTER WHEN HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY DIE WELT. HE BELIEVES THAT EITZENBERGER MIGHT EVEN BE RELEASED FROM PRETRIAL IMPRISONMENT.

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These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.

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